

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN MAY 2000

Natural soda ash production in May was 810,000 metric tons, 3% lower than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 248,000 tons, 27% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in May was 1.22 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in April was 549,000 tons,

4% lower than the April 1999 level of 571,000 tons. Exports and imports of soda ash in April 2000 were 297,000 tons and 5,910 tons, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through April 2000, compared with those of 1999, were as follows: production 2% lower, imports 3% higher, exports 2% lower, ending stocks 26% higher, and apparent consumption 6% lower.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production 2/	Ending stocks	
1999:			
April	833	272	1,320
May	886	371	1,450
June	859	303	1,370
July	911	315	1,140
August	803	292	1,180
September	824	254	1,280
October	888	264	1,290
November	899	230	1,290
December	884	248	1,350
Total (January-May)	4,180	XX	6,970
Year total	10,200	XX	15,900
2000:			
January	809	313	1,380
February	740	295	1,330
March	841	343	1,390
April	839	342	1,290
May	810	248	1,220
Total	4,040	XX	6,610

XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production data includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors only. Soda ash equivalent from mine water is not included. Soda liquors for the current year 2000 are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 2
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH, BY COUNTRY, IN APRIL 2000 1/ 2/

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 3/ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	57,200	\$6,300	\$110
Indonesia	44,100	4,580	104
Japan	41,000	5,730	140
Korea, Republic of	26,700	3,020	113
Malaysia	24,300	3,420	141
Belgium	19,300	2,430	126
Canada	15,300	1,430	93
China	12,300	793	64
Spain	11,800	1,260	107
Italy	10,000	925	92
Other	35,000	4,160	119
Total	297,000	34,000	115

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ May 2000 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value at U.S. ports.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2000 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	Total	% of total
Argentina	--	10,100	12,000	--	22,100	2
Aruba	--	293	40	20	353	(3/)
Australia	7,420	13,700	--	--	21,100	2
Belgium	--	--	--	19,300	19,300	2
Bolivia	--	450	600	--	1,050	(3/)
Brazil	28,100	29,200	354	--	57,700	5
Canada	23,700	15,500	18,000	15,300	72,500	7
Chile	--	23,500	28,200	--	51,700	5
China	--	4,200	--	12,300	16,500	2
Colombia	11,300	--	11,000	--	22,200	2
Costa Rica	--	6,030	--	--	6,030	1
Dominican Republic	--	--	--	93	93	(3/)
Finland	--	17	--	--	17	(3/)
France	--	--	--	7,500	7,500	1
Guatemala	--	--	5,290	--	5,290	(3/)
Indonesia	12,400	--	--	44,100	56,500	5
Italy	--	--	--	10,000	10,000	1
Jamaica	1,990	--	14	--	2,000	(3/)
Japan	23,000	27,700	19,800	41,000	111,000	10
Korea, Republic of	36,600	44,300	30,700	26,700	138,000	13
Malaysia	--	13,000	--	24,300	37,300	3
Mexico	38,200	29,900	28,500	57,200	154,000	14
New Zealand	--	--	--	7,530	7,530	1
Nigeria	--	--	3,980	--	3,980	(3/)
Peru	--	2,870	1,900	--	4,770	(3/)
Philippines	8,500	--	9,450	--	18,000	2
Russia	--	144	--	--	144	(3/)
Saudi Arabia	15,000	--	15,100	--	30,100	3
South Africa	25,000	--	--	--	25,000	2
Spain	9,360	--	--	11,800	21,200	2
Switzerland	--	36	--	--	36	(3/)
Taiwan	26,000	--	12,500	6,000	44,500	4
Thailand	14,200	16,200	15,200	--	45,600	4
Trinidad and Tobago	--	19	--	2,800	2,820	(3/)
United Kingdom	--	--	163	6,040	6,210	1
Venezuela	40,900	--	4,030	--	44,900	4
Vietnam	5,000	--	5	5,000	10,000	1
Total	327,000	237,000	217,000	297,000	1,080,000	100

-- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ May 2000 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH 1/

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 2/ (thousands)
1999:		
April	7,990	\$924
May	6,600	761
June	7,960	980
July	7,750	939
August	6,410	812
September	9,120	1,080
October	8,840	1,080
November	7,690	959
December	10,200	1,220
Total (January-April)	27,300	3,230
Year total	91,900	11,100
2000: 3/		
January	6,510	784
February	8,660	981
March	6,920	811
April	5,910	713
Total	28,000	3,290

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Customs, insurance, and freight (c.i.f) value at U.S. ports.

3/ May 2000 data were not available at time of publication.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption 2/
				Increase	Decrease	
1999:						
April	833,000	7,990	294,000	--	24,500	571,000
May	886,000	6,600	275,000	99,000	--	519,000
June	859,000	7,960	234,000	--	67,800	701,000
July	911,000	7,750	289,000	11,700	--	618,000
August	803,000	6,410	406,000	--	22,700	427,000
September	824,000	9,120	236,000	--	38,400	636,000
October	888,000	8,840	455,000	10,300	--	432,000
November	899,000	7,690	285,000	--	34,000	655,000
December	884,000	10,200	342,000	17,900	--	535,000
Total (January-April)	3,290,000	27,300	1,100,000	--	1,320	2,220,000
Year total	10,200,000	91,900	3,620,000	--	25,300	6,740,000
2000:						
January	809,000	6,510	327,000	65,200	--	424,000
February	740,000	8,660	237,000	--	18,500	530,000
March	841,000	6,920	217,000	47,900	--	583,000
April	839,000	5,910	297,000	--	921	549,000
May	810,000	NA	NA	--	93,900	NA
January-April	3,230,000	28,000	1,080,000	93,600	--	2,090,000

NA Not available. -- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.